

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, August 16, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Agreements

Gregory Wood Products Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Project Agreement with WPCOG, Budget Ordinance and Assessment Policy	635	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Appointments

Catawba County Criminal Partnership Advisory Board	632	08/16/04
--	-----	----------

Certificates of Appreciation, Commendation, etc.

Jeff Dills, member of the United States Paralympic Team	631	08/16/04
Certificate of Appreciation to County Clerk	639	08/16/04

Closed Session

NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses	639	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Elections, Board of

Supplemental Appropriation of County Funds – 2004 Second Primary and Acceptance of \$4,850 Federal Grant	632	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Emergency Services Department

Medical Education Advisor Funding – Budget Revision	633	8/16/04
Mutual Aid Agreements with Surrounding Counties	633	08/16/04

Grounds, County, Request to use

Ratify request from the Newton Merchants Association to use 1924 Courthouse and Grounds for the Annual Soldiers Reunion from August 14 - 19, 2004	634	08/16/04
Request from North Carolina National Guard for use of Riverbend Park Grounds on August 28 -29, 2004, for National Guard training	634	08/16/04

Guests

Joe Lutz, Catawba County Chamber of Commerce	631	08/16/04
NAACP, Catawba County Chapter President Jerry McComb	631	08/16/04
Ray Pitts, 4761 Rock Barn Road, Claremont, spoke on behalf of Citizens who are in desperate need of water	631	08/16/04

Historical Association, Catawba County

Publication, "Balls Creek Campmeeting 150 Years of Faith, Family and Friends"	637	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Meetings, Board of Commissioners

Change in Board Meeting Schedule - canceling October 18, 2004 meeting	634	08/16/04
Recess the Tuesday, September 7, 2004 meeting after business session until 3:00 p.m	634	08/16/04

Ordinances

No. 2004-14, Catawba County Project Budget Ordinance, for the 2004 CDBG Gregory Wood Products Economic Development Project	635	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Policy

Gregory Wood Products Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Project Agreement with WPCOG, Budget Ordinance and Assessment Policy	636	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Public Hearing

Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Hookup	632	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Reinventing

Personnel Changes, Reinventing Government - Social Services	638	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Resolutions

No. 2004-21, Canceling the October 18, 2004, Board of Commissioners Meeting	634	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

No. 2004-22, Support Of Amendment One, Self-Financing Bonds	637	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Utilities & Engineering Department

Ray Pitts, 4761 Rock Barn Road, Claremont, spoke on behalf of Citizens who are in desperate need of water	631	08/16/04
--	-----	----------

Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Hookup	632	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Gregory Wood Products Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Project Agreement with WPCOG, Budget Ordinance and Assessment Policy	635	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Gregory Wood Products Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Project Agreement with WPCOG, Budget Ordinance and Assessment Policy	635	08/16/04
---	-----	----------

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 16, 2004, 7:00 p.m., at the Catawba County Government Center, Second Floor Meeting Room, 100 A South West Boulevard, Newton, North Carolina. (The location change was due to use of the 1924 Courthouse grounds for Soldiers Reunion festivities.)

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: N/A

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Joellen J. Daley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Hunsucker led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Invocation offered by Commissioner Barger.
4. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session of Monday, August 2, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.

Chair Barnes recognized Joe Lutz, Catawba County Chamber of Commerce, and stated Mr. Lutz had accepted a new position and was leaving the Chamber. She thanked Mr. Lutz for representing the Chamber and wished him well.

Chair Barnes recognized NAACP, Catawba County Chapter President Jerry McComb. She said the NAACP statewide convention will be held in Catawba County, September 30 - October 2, 2004.

6. Public Comment for items not on the agenda:

Mr. Ray Pitts, 4761 Rock Barn Road, Claremont, spoke on behalf of citizens, most of them elderly and on a fixed income, who reside within a one and three-fourths mile area, north of Shook Road and south of Community Road near Rock Barn Road who are in desperate need of water. He said they petitioned two years ago and again last year and were denied water.

Chair Barnes thanked Mr. Pitts for representing his neighbors. Chair Barnes said the Board would continue seeking grants and she said there was an item on this agenda that had taken four years for an area in the county to get water.

Commissioner Beatty requested that Utilities and Engineering Director Barry Edwards give an update.

Mr. Edwards said Conover could not apply for a grant outside of their area or ETJ. There are \$500 million infrastructure needs in Catawba County. Mr. Edwards said this was not only a Catawba County problem as areas in the entire state have the same issues. He said there was a public hearing at this meeting for future projects which are two years away. He said staff was aware of the water needs in the area Mr. Pitts was talking about.

7. Presentation:
 - a. Commissioner Beatty, on behalf of the Board, presented a Certificate of Commendation to Jeff Dills, member of the United States Paralympic Team, who will compete in Athens in September 2004 which read: "In recognition of your being selected as a member of the Men's Basketball team which will compete in the 2004 Paralympic Games from September 17-28 in Athens, Greece. We commend you for having the courage and strength to not only rise from the tremendous adversity resulting from a tragic motorcycle accident, but to develop basketball skills worthy of a place on the United States Paralympic Team. We are very proud of your accomplishments as a graduate of Newton-Conover High School, as the only Catawba County resident competing in the 2004 Summer Olympics and one

of only three athletes from this region of North Carolina who will be in Athens. We further congratulate you and your teammates for continued improvement on the court, as evidenced by the team's recent victory at an international tournament in London, England, and second place finish at another tournament in Canada. We will be following your progress at the Paralympic Games in Athens with great interest, and wish you and your teammates the very best as you "go for the gold."

Mr. Dills thanked the Board for the honor.

8. Public Hearing:

a. Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Hookup.

Utilities and Engineering Director Barry Edwards said Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications are to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Funds from this program can be used for many different activities including: installation of infrastructure for businesses that will create jobs for low and moderate income persons, neighborhood revitalization, and housing development and rehabilitation. The County must hold an initial public hearing to receive citizen input in the development of the application. The application must be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Commerce on a first come first serve basis. The Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners hold a public hearing in order to receive citizen input in the development of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the coming year, and endorse the application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure Hookup.

Ms. Sherry Long, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, reviewed the connection grant program which is a \$75,000 maximum grant and is a very competitive program for low-to-moderate income persons. She briefly reviewed programs eligible for CDBG grant funds. The state of NC will receive \$45 million. Catawba County had received over \$500,000 and is eligible for up to \$1.25 million.

Mr. Edwards said staff was working on a packet for Commissioners that lists the grant types with requirements and available projects under those grants.

Chair Barnes opened the public hearing by saying this was the time and place as advertised for the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against.

No one spoke.

Chair Barnes closed the public hearing.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Beatty made a motion to endorse the application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure Hookup. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointments:

Catawba County Criminal Partnership Advisory Board

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to nominate Ms. Pam Knuckles from REPAY to replace Sally Poteat who resigned due to change in responsibilities. The unexpired term ends June 30, 2005. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

10. Consent agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

a. Supplemental Appropriation of County Funds – 2004 Second Primary and Acceptance of \$4,850 Federal Grant.

1. The State of North Carolina will conduct a Second Primary on August 17, 2004. By law, a second primary may be call for by a candidate in second place in a contest when the first place winner did not receive 40 percent of the vote. There are three contest on two ballots - the US House of

Representatives and Register of Deeds on a Republican ballot and Superintendent of Public Instruction on a Democratic ballot.

2. The Board of Election requested and received a grant from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for making polling places accessible to persons with disabilities. This federal grant is in the amount of \$4,850 will be used to:

- a. Make polling places accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., impairments involving visual, hearing, mobility, dexterity, or elderly) by establishing or improving parking, paths of travel, door hardware, entrances, exits, and voting areas through the use of varied accessibility tools. (e.g., ramps, handrails, magnifying lenses, devices to alert curbside voters).
- b. Provide the same opportunity for access and participation for individuals with the full range of disabilities by implementing solutions that will create equal service and improved sensitivity.

All monies in this grant must be spent for accessibility purposes and receipts must be obtained. A report of expended funds must be provided to the State Board of Elections no later than December 31, 2004. The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the following:

1. Appropriate funds in the amount of \$45,000 from the general fund for the Second Primary to be conducted on August 17, 2004.
2. Accept funds in the amount of \$4,850 from the Help America Vote Act, a Federal Grant administrated by the NC State Board of Elections.

<u>Revenue</u>			<u>Expense</u>	
1.	110-190050-690100 Fund Balance Applied	\$45,000	110-140050-841505 110-140050-841510 110-140050-841515 110-140050-843520 110-140050-849090 110-140050-855300 110-140050-858100	\$ 4,500 \$ 1,400 \$ 1,000 \$ 1,200 \$ 900 \$35,000 \$ 1,000
2.	110-140050-620160 HAVA Accessibility Grant	\$4,850	110-140050-849195	\$ 4,850

- b. Medical Education Advisor Funding – Budget Revision.

Catawba Valley Community College and Hickory Fire Department have asked that the County's Medical Education Advisor provide service to them since the County utilizes a common Medical Education Advisor under the EMS System Plan. The current budget for the Medical Education Advisor is \$7,500. The increased revenue and expense will offset the costs of the increased responsibility that comes with additional education sites and program. The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve a budget revision to add a revenue line in EMS and increase an expense line in EMS to receive funding in the amount of \$2,500 from Hickory Fire Department and \$2,500 from Catawba Valley Community College for the services of the County's Medical Education Advisor under the EMS System Plan.

Supplemental Appropriation

110-260150-856300 Medical Services	\$5,000	110-260150-681912 Medical Services	\$5,000
---------------------------------------	---------	---------------------------------------	---------

- c. Approval of Mutual Aid Agreements with Surrounding Counties. (Copies of agreements on file in the Office of Emergency Services Director.)

In order to receive federal funds under Human Resources and Services Administration, (H.R.S.A.) each jurisdiction or county that receives funds must have in place a written mutual agreement with neighboring counties in the event of a disaster. The Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the establishment of Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring counties, to include Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Cleveland, Lincoln, and Iredell, for Emergency Medical Services to provide mutual aid in the event of a disaster. Staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners Chairperson be authorized to sign these agreements for Catawba County.

d. Change in Board Meeting Schedule.

1. The October 18, 2004, Board of Commissioners meeting falls during the International City/County Management Association Annual Conference where County Manager J. Thomas Lundy will be installed as ICMA President for the 2004-05 year. Assistant County Manager Joellen Daley and Mr. Lundy be attending the conference and Chair Barnes will be attending a portion of the conference in order to speak on behalf of the Board of Commissioners at the Installation. Planning staff was not aware of any planning/rezoning issues which would need action by the Board of Commissioners at that meeting and therefore staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners cancel the October 18th meeting.

Resolution No. 2004-21

Canceling the October 18, 2004, Board of Commissioners Meeting

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2003, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners approved its meeting calendar for 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to cancel the Monday, October 18, 2004, Board meeting which falls during the International City/County Management Association Annual Conference where County Manager J. Thomas Lundy will be installed as ICMA President for the 2004-05 year. Assistant County Manager Joellen Daley and Mr. Lundy be attending the conference and Chair Barnes will be attending a portion of the conference in order to speak on behalf of the Board of Commissioners at the Installation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners has canceled its meeting for Monday, October 18, 2004.

This the 16th day of August, 2004.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
County Board of Catawba Commissioners

2. The FORESIGHT Committee has completed its final report and would like to meet with the Board of Commissioners. Commissioners Lail and Barger, who serve on the FORESIGHT Committee, would like to have a two-hour work session, and it is suggested that after all business of the September 7th meeting has been held that the Board recess its meeting to reconvene at 3:00 p.m. on September 7th at Holiday Inn Select, 1385 Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard, SE, Hickory, North Carolina for a FORESIGHT work session followed by a reception congratulating and honoring the members of the FORESIGHT Committee.

The Policy and Public Works Committee recommended that the Board of Commissioners (1) cancel the October 18, 2004, Board of Commissioners meeting and (2) after the 9:30 a.m. September 7th meeting recess same to reconvene at 3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Select, 1385 Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard, SE, Hickory, North Carolina on September 7th for a work session regarding the FORESIGHT planning process and a reception congratulating and honoring the FORESIGHT committee members.

- e. Staff recommends that the Board ratify a request from the Newton Merchants Association to use 1924 Courthouse and Grounds for the Annual Soldiers Reunion from August 14 - 19, 2004.
- f. Staff recommends approval of request from North Carolina National Guard for use of Rivebend Park Grounds on August 28 -29, 2004, for National Guard training.

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the aforementioned consent agenda items. The motion carried unanimously.

End Consent Agenda

11. Departmental Reports:

a. Utilities and Engineering Department:

1. Gregory Wood Products Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development Project Agreement with Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Budget Ordinance and Assessment Policy. (Agreement with Western Piedmont Council of Governments for the provision of Grant Management Assistance for Economic Development Project from August 16, 2004, until July 31, 2006, on file in the Office of Utilities and Engineering Director.)

Utilities and Engineering Director Barry Edwards said on April 19, 2004, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution No. 2004-11 authorizing staff to develop, execute and file an application on behalf of Catawba County. The County has received approval of the CDBG-ED grant in the amount of \$481,907 with County matching funds in the amount of \$154,126; the total project is estimated to be \$636,033 for the installation and construction of water and sewer infrastructure and an industrial site access road to serve Gregory Wood Products. A budget ordinance is required for all CDBG projects in order to receive grant reimbursements as well as, the adoption of an Assessment Policy. The Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve an agreement with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments for grant administration and planning in the amount of \$30,000; adopt a project budget ordinance in the amount of \$636,033; and approve an Assessment Policy.

**Ordinance No. 2004-14
Catawba County Project Budget Ordinance
for the 2004 Community Development Block Grant
Gregory Wood Products Economic Development Project**

Be it ordained by Catawba County Commissioners that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted.

Section 1. The project authorized is the Community Development Project described in the work statement contained in the Grant Agreement (#04-E-1275) between this unit and the Department of Commerce. This project is more familiarly known as the 2004 Gregory Wood Products Economic Development Project.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant document(s), the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce, and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project.

<u>Revenues</u>	
Community Development Block Grant	\$481,907
Catawba County	<u>\$154,126</u>
	\$636,033

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

<u>Expenditures</u>	
Water Improvements(CDBG)	\$ 89,375
Sewer Improvements (CDBG)	166,217
Sewer Improvements(County)	134,126
Street Improvements (CDBG)	196,315
Street Improvements (County)	20,000
Administration(CDBG)	25,000
Planning(CDBG)	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
	\$ 636,033

Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement(s) and federal and state regulations.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7. The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

Section 8. The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to this Board.

Section 9. Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this the 16th day of August, 2004.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/ Thelda B. Rhoney, County Clerk

**Assessment Policy
Catawba County
Gregory Wood Products Economic Development Project**

WHEREAS, Catawba County desires to construct water and sewer lines to serve the proposed industrial site for Gregory Wood Products located off Rocky Ford; and,

WHEREAS, Catawba County has applied to receive a grant award of \$481,907 through the North Carolina Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to assist with the construction of water and sewer lines to the industrial site; and,

WHEREAS, the grant award is subject to Catawba County adopting an Assessment Policy regarding future users of the water and sewer lines funded by the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

That the following Assessment Policies for future of this industrial water and sewer extension be in effect upon completion of construction:

In the case of single family dwellings, all future residential water and connections determined not to be low-and moderate income eligible, will be charged an assessment based upon the number of kitchens and bathrooms in the unit. This charge will be for water and sewer service. If only one service is received, the assessment will be 50%. The assessment will be \$100.00 for a one (1) kitchen - one (1) bath unit. There will be a \$50.00 additional charge for each additional kitchen and/or bath. In the case of multi-family dwellings, the assessment will be \$120.00 per unit, regardless of the number of baths per unit. An assessment for industrial and commercial users will be a CDBG add-on of \$1,000. In addition, all normal tap fees and security deposits will be required. This assessment will not be imposed on any residential, commercial or industrial user that primarily benefits low- and moderate-income individuals in accordance with the CDBG income guidelines.

That 50% of all revenues received from this Assessment Policy during the first five (5) years will be returned to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The remaining 50% will be used to finance future capital improvements to the County's water and sewer systems that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.

That no assessment will be imposed on residential units owned and occupied by low- and moderate-income persons as defined by CDBG regulations.

Adopted this 16th day of August, 2004 in Newton, North Carolina.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/ Thelda B. Rhoney, County Clerk

Supplemental Appropriation

Appropriations

525-350150-849125 \$ 89,375

Water Improvements

525-350150-849128 \$300,343

Sewer Improvements

525-350150-849129 \$216,315

Street Improvements

525-350150-849117 \$ 25,000

Administration (CDBG)

525-350150-849122 \$ 5,000

Planning (CDBG)

Total \$636,033

Revenues

525-350050-627000 \$481,907

Community Development Block Grant

525-350050-690100 \$154,126

Fund Balance Applied

Total \$636,033

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve an agreement with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments for grant administration and planning in the amount of \$30,000; adopt a project budget ordinance in the amount of \$636,033; and approve an Assessment Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Attorneys' Report:

- a. Robert Oren Eades, President, Catawba County Historical Association presented to the Board members copies of Catawba County Historical Association's publication, "Balls Creek Campmeeting 150 Years of Faith, Family and Friends."

Mr. Eades said last year was the Sesquicentennial of the Balls Creek Campmeeting, and the Catawba County Historical Association wanted to assist the campground in the celebration by producing a book that would be a collective scrapbook of the campground. They worked with the campground community and the citizens provided photographs and documents to be included in the book. This was a joint project with the Commissioners because of its support. He presented books to board members as a token of appreciation.

13. Manager's Report:

- a. Resolution in support of an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution, Amendment One - Self-Financing Bonds.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), and other governmental and business organizations, sought passage of legislation to place Amendment One on the November 2 ballot. Passage of Amendment One would add a tool to accelerate the economic recovery. North Carolina counties need the availability of this financing mechanism in situations where self-financing bonds can rehabilitate or revive a community and will give local governments an important tool to compete for new jobs. Self-financing bonds are an economic development tool that can be used to finance public improvements in special development districts. These bonds would be used in public-private partnerships, when private development is planned and public facilities are required. If Amendment One passes, the Board of Commissioners, in consultation with landowners, would designate a development district. The Board of Commissioners would issue self-financing bonds to pay for the public facilities related to the private development within the district. The increased property tax revenues resulting from that development would be used to pay off bonds. No tax increases would be necessary. A constitutional amendment is necessary to allow a legally binding pledge of the additional property tax revenues as security for repayment of the bonds. Unlike general obligation bonds, the taxing power of a city or county will not be pledged, so there is no need for a referendum on each proposed bond package. The Local Government Commission will oversee the issuance of self-financing bonds in a financially sound manner. There will be numerous other safeguards in place to ensure that these projects will be successful. North Carolina is one of only two states in the United States without self-financing bonds. Forty-eight other states are using this financing tool to attract jobs and revitalize communities. The

Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution in support of Amendment One to the NC Constitution, Self-Financing Bonds.

**Resolution No. 2004-22
Resolution In Support Of Amendment One
Self-Financing Bonds**

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners believes that a strong economy is the best engine for reinvigorating social and educational progress in North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, self-financing bonds will have a positive impact on creating new jobs and strengthening the tax base in our communities for public services; and,

WHEREAS, these bonds will give local governments flexibility to pursue multiple types of economic development projects including redevelopment of existing industrial and Brownfield sites, affordable housing, and community revitalization; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that does not have this economic tool; and,

WHEREAS, these bonds can be used throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, self-financing development bonds have received wide-ranging bi-partisan support from the General Assembly as well as municipal, county, and state government and Governors Holshouser, Martin, and Hunt; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina will have some of the strongest safeguards in the country to ensure self-financing bonds are used for good purposes; and,

WHEREAS, these self-financing bonds will not require any increases of tax rates; and,

WHEREAS, these bonds are subject to voter approval of Amendment One on the November 2, 2004, ballot and deserve rightful consideration by the citizens of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Catawba County Board of Commissioners supports approval of Amendment One and pledges to educate and inform its members and citizens of the state about its importance to jobs and progress in North Carolina.

DONE this 16th of August, 2004.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/ Thelda B. Rhoney, County Clerk

Commissioner Hunsucker requested that Catawba County Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar to comment.

Mr. Millar said the CDBG funding is becoming less available. The credit of the company is what qualifies the site for the funding. The NC Local Government Commission provides another form of safety.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Other items of business.

a. Reinventing:

Personnel Changes, Reinventing Government - Social Services

Section II (F) of the 2004-2005 budget ordinances states: Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within

available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes.

Under this provision of the budget ordinance the following positions need to be added to the Social Services' budget effective October 1, 2004.

Child Protective Services Social Workers (8)

The North Carolina General Assembly appropriated funds for counties to improve caseload standards in Child Protective Services. For the first time Catawba County will receive a significant allocation. The allocation formula used will decrease caseloads from twelve cases per social worker per month to ten cases per social worker per month. The state money allows other matching efforts for Federal funds and Medicaid to cause these positions to have no county cost.

Income Maintenance Caseworkers (3)

Additional positions are necessary due to continued increases in Family Medicaid and Food Stamps. The average Food Stamp participating households increased 15.7% during the past 12 months and Family Medicaid 7.5%. Social Services delayed additional staff, anticipating some economic recovery resulting in a decrease in Food Stamp participation and a leveling of Medicaid; however, that has not materialized and the workloads have become more demanding.

Accounting Specialist (1)

Family N.E.T. billing and financial management requirements were underestimated, and this position is designed to assure that insurance, private pay, Medicaid, and other reimbursements are billed, received, and properly managed, as well as the necessary liaison and linkage to the impacted organizations.

b. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to the County Clerk.

Chair Barnes said Thelda B. Rhoney, Catawba County Clerk had accepted a position with the Town of Valdese as Town Clerk/Assistant to the Manager, and on behalf of the Board she presented Ms. Rhoney with a certificate which read: "In proud recognition and sincere appreciation this certificate recognizes your service to Catawba County and its citizens as Catawba County Clerk from February 12, 2001, through August 25, 2004. You have been a faithful steward of the agendas, minutes and appointments of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and have executed the duties of County Clerk in a professional and highly skilled manner. Thank you for your contribution to Catawba County."

Ms. Rhoney thanked the Board for the honor.

c. Closed Session.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy requested a Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses. He said he did not anticipate any action after the closed session.

At 7:53 p.m., Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment.

At 8:15 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

August 16, 2004, MB#49

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2004, 9:30 a.m., 1924 Courthouse, Newton, North Carolina, and after the business session the meeting will be recessed until 3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Select, Hickory, for the FORESIGHT final presentation and reception.

Katherine W. Barnes
Chair, Board of Commissioners

Thelda B. Rhoney
County Clerk